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CLAIMS

1. A coupling assembly, comprising:

at least one signal carrying component capable of being coupled with a corresponding receptacle; and,

at least one steerable component, at least a portion of which is secured with the signal carrying component, wherein a non-secured portion of the steerable component can be manipulated by a user from a first disposition generally adjacent a portion of the signal carrying component to a second non-adjacent disposition for steering the assembly into the receptacle.

- 2. The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one signal carrying component comprises at least one electrical conductor.
- 3. The coupling assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one electrical conductor comprises a cable.
- 4. The coupling assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one electrical conductor comprises one or more conductive traces.
- 5. The coupling assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one electrical conductor comprises a flexible printed circuit.

- 6. The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one steerable component comprises polyester.
- 7. The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one steerable component comprises plastic.
- 8. The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one signal carrying component comprises multiple signal carrying components configured to be coupled with multiple corresponding receptacles.
- 9. The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one steerable component is flat.
- 10. The coupling assembly of claim 9, wherein the at least one steerable component has a width and is coupled with the signal carrying component along a majority of the width.
- 11. The coupling assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least one signal carrying component has a width, and wherein the width of the signal carrying component is equal to the width of the steerable component.

- 12. The coupling assembly of claim 11, wherein the width of the steerable component has a rigidity and the width of the signal carrying component has a rigidity, and wherein the rigidity of the steerable component is greater than the rigidity of the signal carrying component.
- 13. The coupling assembly of claim 1, wherein the steerable component has a length and a rigidity associated with the length and the signal carrying component has a length and a rigidity associated with the length and wherein the rigidity of the length of the steerable component exceeds the rigidity of the length of the signal carrying component.

14. A coupling assembly, comprising:

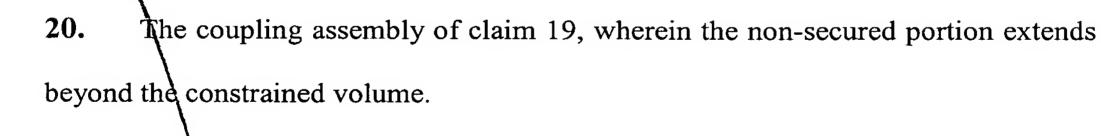
a signal carrying component comprising at least one conductor and an interface component, wherein the at least one conductor is capable of carrying a signal for provision to an electronic device and is coupled with the interface component, the interface component being configured for receipt in an electronic device receptacle; and,

a steerable component having a secured portion on the signal carrying component and a non-secured portion, the non-secured portion having a first disposition adjacent the signal carrying component and a second disposition spaced away from the signal carrying component, the non-secured portion being configured for user deployment away from the signal carrying component in a manner that permits the interface component to be positioned independently of a position of at least a majority of the at least one conductor.

15. The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the signal carrying component comprises a flat cable.



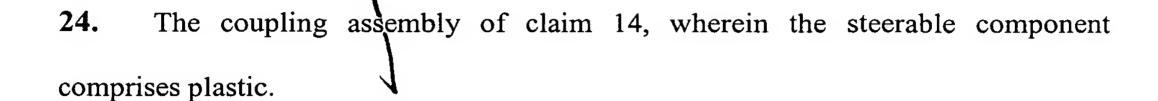
- 16. The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the signal carrying component comprises a flexible printed circuit.
- 17. The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the steerable component provides stiffness that allows force to be applied to insert the interface component into the receptacle.
- 18. The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the non-secured portion is configured to be transpulatable by a user for positioning the interface component into the receptacle.
- 19. The coupling assembly of claim 18, wherein the receptacle is located in a constrained volume





21. The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the at least one conductor comprises at least one trace.

- 22. The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the steerable component is mounted to the interface component.
- 23. The coupling assembly of claim 14, wherein the steerable component comprises polyester.



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25. A method of forming a coupling assembly, comprising:

forming a plurality of layers comprising at least one insulative layer and at least one conductive layer; and,

securing less than an entirety of a steerable stiffener to the plurality of layers, wherein a non-secured portion of the steerable stiffener allows a portion of the plurality of layers to be steered.

- 26. The method of claim 25, wherein forming a plurality of layers comprises adhering the at least one insulative layer to the at least one conductive layer.
- 27. The method of claim 25, wherein forming a plurality of layers comprises positioning a conductive layer between a first insulative layer and a second insulative layer.

29/257 29/857 15/25/67 28. The method of claim 25, wherein said forming a plurality of layers comprises forming a flexible printed circuit having a plurality of layers.

29. A method of forming a coupling assembly, comprising: providing at least one signal carrying component; and,

securing less than the entirety of a steerable stiffener with the at least one signal carrying component in a manner that allows a non-secured portion of the steerable stiffener to be manipulated by a user from a first disposition adjacent to the signal carrying component to a second non-adjacent disposition so that the at least one signal carrying component can be positioned by the user.

- 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said securing comprises securing the steerable stiffener to an intermediate insulative component that effectively secures the steerable stiffener to the signal carrying component.
- 31. The method of claim 29, wherein said providing at least one signal carrying component comprises providing multiple electrically conductive traces.
- 32. The method of claim 29, wherein said providing at least one signal carrying component comprises providing a flexible printed circuit.
- 33. The method of claim 29, wherein said providing at least one signal carrying component comprises providing a flat flexible cable.

34. A coupling assembly, comprising:

a stiffener capable of transferring force in a given direction;

less than the entirety of the stiffener configured to be secured to a signal carrying component; and,

a non-secured portion of the stiffener configured to be manipulated by a user from a first disposition generally adjacent a portion of the signal carrying component to a second non-adjacent disposition for steering a portion of the signal carrying component into a corresponding receptacle.

- 35. The coupling assembly of claim 34, wherein the non-secured portion is configured to manipulate the signal carrying component into the corresponding receptacle where the receptacle is in a confined space.
- 36. The coupling assembly of claim 35, wherein the non-secured portion is configured to manipulate the signal carrying component into the receptacle with less than an entirety of the non-secured portion entering the confined space.

